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September 22, 1978

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ACTION is assigned to ARA

Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A few years ago, I requested the State Department's assistance in locating the whereabouts of Argentine film-maker, Raymundo Gleyzer.

In 1976, Mr. Gleyzer was kidnapped by right-wing terrorists three days after returning to Argentina from a month's visit in the United States. There were reports of torture and imprisonment, but very little information was released or available to concerned friends in the United States.

Within the past two weeks, Mr. Gleyzer's friends in the United States have received reports from different sources that he is alive and being held in a camp in the south of Argentina.

I would greatly appreciate your initiating an inquiry into the whereabouts of Raymundo Gleyzer. Any assistance you may render in getting Mr. Gleyzer released from this camp would also be sincerely appreciated.

Copies of Mr. Gleyzer's biography and an article printed in the New York Post in 1976 shortly after his disappearance are enclosed for your information.

Please advise me of any actions taken in this matter.

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS
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1978 SEP 6 AM 9 25

Sincerely,

Phil Burton

PHILLIP BURTON
Member of Congress

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RAYMUNDO GLEYZER

Age: 36 years old
Status: Married, one child 6 years old
Citizenship: Argentine

Raymundo Gleyzer is a well known motion picture director and producer, winner of seven international awards for documentaries, including 1st. Prize at Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland; 1st Prize at Mannheim International Film Festival, West Germany; 1st Prize at the Adelaide International Film Festival, Australia. Plus four major national awards, including the Premio Instituto Nacional de Cine, 1965, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Raymundo Gleyzer has also directed many television shows and in that capacity he produced over 200 programs for Channel 7, Buenos Aires; Channel 3, Superama Plaza, Huincul; Channel 3, Primera TV de Tartugal, Salta Province; and director of Channel 13 program, TELENOCHE.

He has also worked for such other organizations as: Direccion Provincial de Turismo de Catamarca; Universidad Nacional de Cordoba; Direccion Provincial de Turismo de Cordoba; Direccion Municipal de Turismo de Santa Teresita.

Mr. Gleyzer has also filmed dozens of industrial films for Industrias Kaiser Argentina as well as other commercial spots and was associated in the United States with MPO-Videotronics, Inc., the largest producer of commercial and sponsored films in the world.

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Argentine Film Man Tortured?

By ROBERT BAZELL

Raymundo Gleyzer, an internationally known Argentine filmmaker, left New York on May 19 after negotiating a contract to produce a film for the UN.

Four days later he arrived in Buenos Aires and four days after that he disappeared.

In recent months hundreds of people in Argentina suspected of leftist sympathies have been summarily murdered or jailed in torture camps, from which they either never emerge or return physically and mentally broken.

Gleyzer's friends, who are many, fear he has met such a fate. Numerous groups, including UN diplomats the U.S. State Dept. and the Vatican have queried the Argentine government about his whereabouts. All have received the same response: "We have no idea where he is."

Film Industry Concern

Several American film personalities — Jack Nicholson, Peter Bogdanovich, Candice Bergen, Francis Ford Coppola and Jane Fonda among them—are sponsoring an organization demanding Gleyzer's release.

In Italy, Frederico Fellini, Michaelangelo Antonioni, Lina Wertmuller and Roberto Rossellini were among 169 filmmakers who signed a petition on Gleyzer's behalf.

Gleyzer, 34, is known primarily for a series of documentaries about Latin American countries including "Mexico, the Frozen Revolution" and "The Land Burns" (about Brazil). He won several awards at international film festivals.

In Argentina, Gleyzer produced several hundred shows for different television stations. His mother, Sara Aljenbom, was a star of one of the country's most popular soap operas. Immediately after her son's disappearance Miss Aljenbom's part was written out of the show.

According to friends, Gleyzer had been living in this country but he returned to Argentina to visit his four-year-old son. The friends say he voiced fears for his safety from "rightist terrorists" but decided to go home anyway.

Last week, a man who had been a prisoner in Argentina but was released and fled the country sent a letter to Gleyzer's associates here saying he was in a specific torture camp in Buenos Aires "in a state of total physical and mental deterioration." Like other detainees, the letter said, "he is kept completely naked at all times . . . and subjected to continuous beatings, electric shocks, burns, etc."

Although he expressed leftist sympathies, Gleyzer was not, friends say, a political activist. Reportedly, however, the government itself, or rightwing terrorists who operate freely in Argentina, suspected he had harbored leftist refugees from Chile.